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## Chickasaw National Recreation Area News Release

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### High waters necessitate Chickasaw National Recreation Area closures

SULPHUR, OK --- Due to heavy rainfall this month—more than 11 inches total—Chickasaw National Recreation Area has closed several areas throughout the park. Currently, the creeks flow rapidly and the Lake of the Arbuckles' lake level is now nine feet above the normal conservation pool. As lake waters rise above normal shorelines, sewer lines that provide service to the Buckhorn campground and day use areas have become threatened. As a result, park management determined it is necessary to close the Buckhorn area to camping, day use, and boat launch, due to lack of restroom facilities and threats to the electrical system.

Access and safety considerations also necessitate the closing of other park areas impacted by heavy rainfall and high lake waters. These areas are submerged under water and present safety risks to visitors. Areas affected are as follows: Buckhorn campground and day use areas, Buckhorn boat launch ramp, Catfish Bottoms, Blackjack Road, Eagle Bay, Point day use area, East Hunting Area, and Blue Stem Prairie.

At this time, the Point Boat Launch offers the best location to launch a boat. Boaters are reminded to use caution as floating debris and vegetation has washed downstream from creeks into the lake. Also, park rangers encourage safe boating practices and minimal vessel speed on the lake. As waters continue to rise more closures are possible.

Moreover, stream flow speed is currently deceptive and park rangers caution swimmers to stay out of creeks and enjoy the park from the shoreline until waters recede. Motorists are reminded not to drive into water.

For more information about Chickasaw National Recreation Area, visit [www.nps.gov/chic](http://www.nps.gov/chic) or call the Travertine Nature Center at (580)622-7234.

*About the National Park Service. More than 20,000 National Park Service employees care for America's 407 national parks and work with communities across the nation to help preserve local history and create close-to-home recreational opportunities. Learn more at [www.nps.gov](http://www.nps.gov).*